

I. AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for treatment or prevention of osteoarthritis in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament comprising an agent capable of inhibiting SAP serum amyloid P component (SAP) ligand binding activity or depleting SAP from the plasma of the subject.

14. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein the agent is capable of being bound by a ligand binding site present on SAP.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the agent comprises a plurality of ligands covalently co-linked so as to form a complex with SAP and a second protein, wherein at least two of the ligands are the same or different, one of which is capable of being bound by a ligand binding site present on SAP and another is capable of being bound by a ligand binding site present on the second protein.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the agent has two ligands.

17. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the ligands are covalently co-linked by a linker.

18. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the linker comprises a linear or branched hydrocarbylene in which one or more of the carbon atoms thereof is optionally substituted by a heteroatom.

19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the agent has the general structure:

Ligand – linker – Ligand.

20. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the second protein is SAP.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein the ligands are covalently co-linked by a linker.

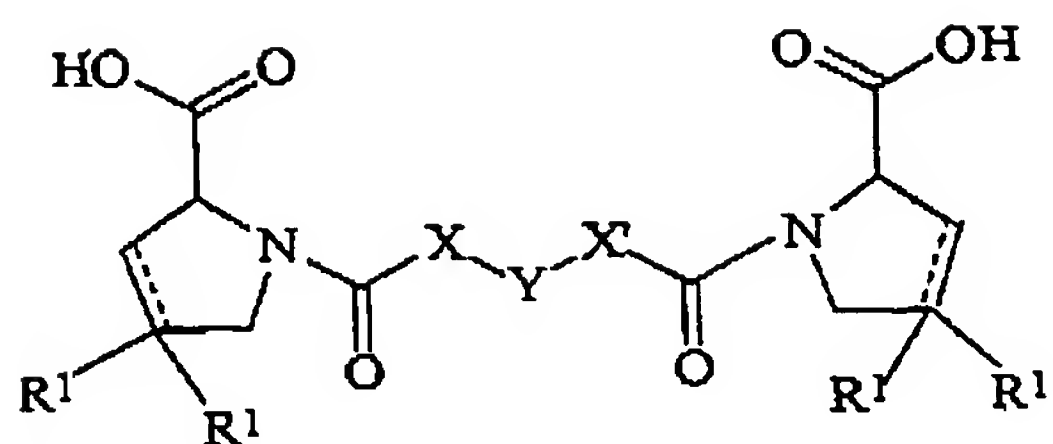
22. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein the linker comprises a linear or branched hydrocarbylene in which one or more of the carbon atoms thereof is optionally substituted by a heteroatom.

23. (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein the agent has the general structure:

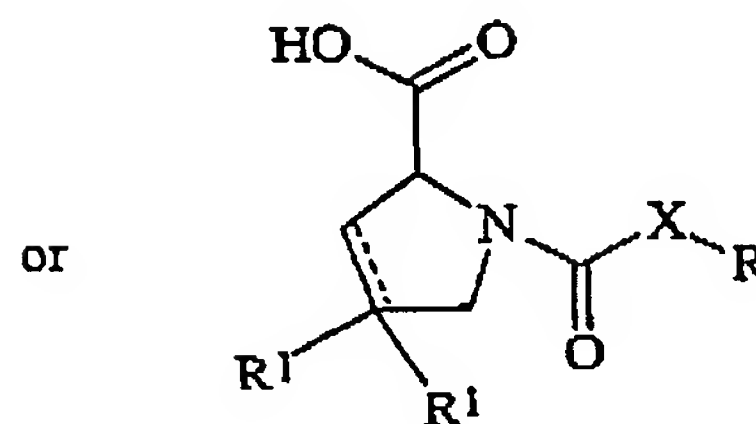
Ligand – linker – Ligand.

24. (New) A method for treatment or prevention of osteoarthritis in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament comprising an agent capable of inhibiting SAP ligand binding activity or depleting SAP from the plasma of the subject, wherein the agent comprises a plurality of ligands covalently co-linked so as to form a complex with SAP and a second protein; and wherein at least two of the ligands are the same or different, at least one of which comprises a substituted or unsubstituted D-proline or stereoanalogue thereof, and another is capable of being bound by a ligand binding site present on the second protein.

25. (New) A method for treatment or prevention of osteoarthritis in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament comprising a D-proline of the formula

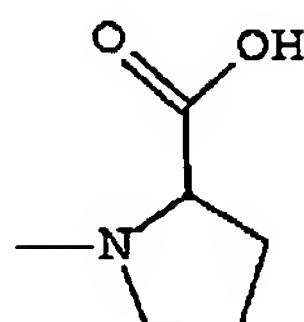


I-A



I-B

wherein R is the group



- R^1 is hydrogen or halogen;
- X is $-(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH(R^2)(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH_2O(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH_2NH-$; benzyl, $-C(R^2)=CH-$; $-CH_2CH(OH)-$; or thiazol-2,5-diyl;
- Y is $-S-S-$; $-(CH_2)_n-$; $-O-$; $-NH-$; $-N(R^2)-$; $-CH=CH-$; $-NHC(O)NH-$; $-N(R^2)C(O)N(R^2)-$; $-N[CH_2C_6H_3(OCH_3)_2]-$; $-N(CH_2C_6H_5)-$; $-N(CH_2C_6H_5)C(O)N(CH_2C_6H_5)-$; $-N(alkoxyalkyl)-$; $N(cycloalkyl-methyl)-$; 2,6-pyridyl; 2,5-furanyl; 2,5-thienyl; 1,2-cyclohexyl; 1,3-cyclohexyl; 1,4-cyclohexyl; 1,2-naphthyl; 1,4-naphthyl; 1,5-naphthyl; 1,6-naphthyl; biphenylen; or 1,2-phenylen, 1,3-phenylen and 1,4-phenylen, wherein the phenylen groups are optionally substituted by 1 - 4 substituents, selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy, $-COO$ -lower alkyl, nitrilo, 5-tetrazol, (2-carboxylic acid pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-oxo-ethoxy, N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl, 5-oxo[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl, 2-oxo-[1,2,3,5]oxathiadiazolyl, 5-thioxo[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl and 5-tert-butylsulfanyl-[1,2,4] oxadiazolyl;
- X' is $-(CH_2)_n-$; $-(CH_2)_nCH(R^2)-$; $-(CH_2)_nOCH_2-$; $-NHCH_2-$; benzyl, $-CH=C(R^2)-$; $-CH(OH)CH_2-$; or thiazol-2,5-diyl;
- R^2 is lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or benzyl and
- n is 0-3,
- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mono- or diester thereof.

26. (New) A method for treatment or prevention of osteoarthritis in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament comprising (R)-1-[6-(R)-2-Carboxy-pyrrolidin-1-yl] -6-oxo-hexanoyl] pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mono- or diester thereof.

27. (New) A method for treatment or prevention of osteoarthritis in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament comprising a substituted or unsubstituted D-proline or stereoanalogue thereof.